

JOE WILSON  
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE:  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
RANKING MEMBER: MIDDLE EAST, NORTH  
AFRICA, & INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM  
ARMED SERVICES

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

587

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Received & Inspected

JUL 08 2020

FCC Mailroom

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Suite 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Honorable Pai,

I am writing to you to express my interest in the application submission by the Low Country Health Care System (LCHCS) for funding under the Federal Communication Commission COVID-19 Telehealth program. The Application National Provider Identifier is 1649366022. I urge you to give this submission your full and fair consideration as you determine which entities will receive funding.

As the congressional representative of South Carolina's Second Congressional District, I am keenly aware of the need for quality healthcare, particularly the Low Country region which faces a shortage of primary care providers serving the low-income population. In the last five years, health care resources in this region have severely diminished with the closing of a rural hospital and two rural health clinics. LCHCS, which serves Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Hampton, and Orangeburg counties, is an essential safety-net provider for the uninsured, Medicaid, and Medicare populations. Without access to services provided by LCHCS, these individuals would delay care or rely on the emergency room – resulting in greater sickness, costlier care, and fewer resources for hospitalization of COVID-19 cases.

The expansion of telehealth services through FCC funding will improve health outcomes in this underserved area, where a significant portion of the population suffers from multiple chronic co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension and HIV. FCC funding will equip eight clinics to deliver primary care remotely across the expansive, primarily rural service area. By strengthening its capacity to treat patients with chronic diseases and COVID-19 symptoms through telehealth, LCHCS will improve the safety of all patients by reducing the risk of exposure. By adding telehealth services for routine and urgent patient services and treatment of chronic diseases, LCHCS will free up resources such as staffing and physical space to screen for, evaluate, and treat patients with COVID-19. This expansion of comprehensive telehealth services will provide care to an estimated 5,529 patients across eight sites and seven counties.

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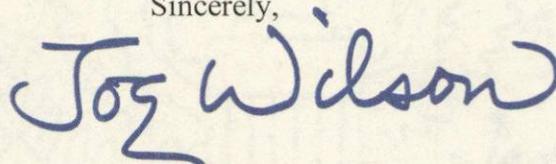
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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

It is an honor to represent the people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, and I value your input. Thank you for your time and concern in this and all other matters

If you have questions, contact: Mr. Alex Morris at the Midlands District Office at 1700Sunset Blvd., Suite 1 West Columbia, South Carolina 29169. The phone number is 803-939-0041. The fax number is 803-939-0078.

Sincerely,



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

JW/dg

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